

Testimony of Vera Williams
Parent at Common Ground High School,
358 Springside Avenue, New Haven, CT 06515
Testimony submitted to the Appropriations Committee
March 24th, 2011

Honorable Chairs, Members of the Appropriation Committee:

My son is a Junior at Common Ground High School, he has been with the school since his Freshman year. My son is a very quiet and very soft spoken individually, so when I heard about Common Ground High School, we went there to see what it was like.

Immediately he liked the school because of the setup and the small number of children attending. He told me that he wanted to attend this school, but the only thing he was concerned about was the lack of sports programs. He didn't understand why they didn't have the sports offerings all the other High Schools had. He played football and basketball in his Middle School and was looking forward to playing once he got to High School.

So once, I heard that other schools in New Haven are receiving more money for their children because we are a charter and they are not, I was very concerned. No child should be worth more than any other child. I feel that if all children were treated equally on school funding policies, all children would be given the same opportunities. Had all the children of Common Ground High School been funded fairly, Common Ground, would be able to afford to start its own football and other sports teams, and possibly have cheerleaders just like the other Schools. It is not fair, that we are never given those chances. Every child has dreams—we need to start fulfilling them right now by treating all children equally.

Please consider giving the children of Common Ground High School the same \$14, 500 dollars as other New Haven Public School children, money that they are as deserving of as all other children in public schools in the state of Connecticut.

Signed,

Disappointed Parent.